



## Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary PERMIT APPLICATION FORM

National Marine Sanctuaries are recognized as resource areas of national significance. Their distinctive characteristics have established them as environmental and historic resources for scientific research and public education. With yearly increases in the number of requests to conduct research and education in National Marine Sanctuaries, guidelines for managing and monitoring such projects are necessary to ensure compatibility with sanctuary goals and objectives and all other sanctuary activities.

Permits may be issued by the National Marine Sanctuary managers under special circumstances for activities otherwise prohibited by sanctuary regulations when related to: research to enhance scientific understanding of the sanctuary environment or to improve management decision-making; or education to further public awareness, understanding, and to establish access, use, and/or understanding of sanctuary resources and wise use of the sanctuary environment.

Anyone conducting prohibited activities without a valid National Marine Sanctuary permit may be subject to the penalties as provided under Section 307 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (as amended). A civil penalty of up to \$100,000 for each violation of any regulation may be levied.

Please review the [Guidelines for Submitting National Marine Sanctuary Research and Education Permits](#) before completing the information below. Questions may be addressed to: Ms. Joanne Delaney, Research Interpreter, at [joanne.delaney@noaa.gov](mailto:joanne.delaney@noaa.gov) or Dr. Brian D. Keller, Science Coordinator, at (305) 743-2437 x25.

Any attachments supplementing the information requested below should be submitted in Microsoft Word or rich text format to: [joanne.delaney@noaa.gov](mailto:joanne.delaney@noaa.gov)

### Public Reporting Burden

The information requested in these guidelines is necessary to evaluate whether issuance of a permit is appropriate. The information is used to evaluate the potential benefits of the activity, to determine whether the proposed methods will achieve the proposed results, and to evaluate any possible detrimental environmental impacts. It is through this evaluation and the tracking of all otherwise prohibited activities that the NMSP is able to use permitting as one of the management tools to protect Sanctuary resources and qualities. Submittal of the information requested in these guidelines is required to obtain a permit pursuant to National Marine Sanctuary Regulations (15 CFR part 922). NOAA will make all possible attempt to protect any proprietary business information that is marked as confidential, consistent with applicable Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) law, should any FOIA request be made.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average one (1) hour per response (application, cruise log, and final report), including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Permit Coordinator, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, 1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

**A. PRIMARY APPLICANT INFORMATION:**

Name:

Affiliation:

Department:

Mailing address (*include street or post office box, city, state, and zip code*):

Phone number:

Fax number:

E-mail address:

**B. SECONDARY APPLICANT INFORMATION (*if applicable*):**

Name:

Affiliation:

Department:

Mailing address (*include street or post office box, city, state, and zip code*):

Phone number:

Fax number:

E-mail address:

**C. NAME(S) OF ANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS AUTHORIZED TO CONDUCT  
ACTIVITIES UNDER THIS SANCTUARY PERMIT:**

Name(s):

Affiliation(s):

**D. REQUESTED PERMIT START DATE:**

**E. REQUESTED PERMIT END DATE:**

**F. ACTIVITY FREQUENCY:**

*Identify the frequency of the permitted activity as daily/continuous, weekly, monthly, quarterly, yearly, or other (please explain).*

G. PROJECT TITLE:

H. HYPOTHESIS TO BE TESTED:

I. PROJECT SUMMARY (2-3 sentences):

J. PROJECT ABSTRACT (<250 words):

*Include a statement of objectives, methods, project significance, and justification for working within the Sanctuary.*

**K. DETAILED METHODOLOGY & LOCATION OF PROJECT:**

*Explain complete experimental design, including location of project. For collections of any organism, specify species, sample sizes, quantities, collection technique, sites/area of collection, handling of specimens, and any mitigation efforts.*

☐ *Check here if proposed activity will occur within one or more of the Sanctuary no-take zones (Sanctuary Preservation Areas, Special Use/Research-only Areas, or the Western Sambo Ecological Reserve). Complete additional information on page 5 of this form.*

**L. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF ACTIVITY:**

**M. QUALIFICATIONS OF ALL PERMITTED PERSONNEL:**

**N. SOURCE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT:**

*Provide contract number, performance period, and name of sponsoring agency, if applicable.*

**O. OTHER AGENCY PERMITS:**

*Check all permits required from other agencies for the proposed project. Indicate date the permit was acquired or application was submitted. Attach/submit other permits or applications.*

- ☐ Florida FWCC Special Permit for Scientific/Exhibitional Collecting \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Florida DEP Environmental Resources Permit \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ US Army Corps of Engineers \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ National Marine Fisheries Service \_\_\_\_\_

**K. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PROPOSED RESEARCH IN A SANCTUARY ZONE**

The zones were established to fully protect some representative habitats throughout the Sanctuary and restore, to the maximum extent possible, the ecological integrity of these areas. Non-invasive research or monitoring in these zones that directly benefits management or our understanding of ecosystem function/integrity is allowed. The only invasive research or monitoring allowed is the collection of diseased organisms or that which directly benefits management in terms of testing the effectiveness of these zones in protecting marine biodiversity or ecosystem functioning.

*Describe how the proposed activity will further the scientific understanding of ecosystem structure and function or further management efforts to protect biodiversity and ecosystem health.*

Proposed Locations (check all that apply and list names of every applicable site):

- ☐ Sanctuary Preservation Areas: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Special Use/Research Only Areas: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Western Sambo Ecological Reserve
- ☐ Key Largo NMS Existing Management Area
- ☐ Looe Key NMS Existing Management Area

Proposed Activity within Zones:

- ☐ Extractive use:
  - ☐ diseased organisms
  - ☐ non-diseased organisms
  - ☐ both diseased and non-diseased
- ☐ Non-extractive use

*Brief description of proposed activities within Sanctuary zone(s) :*